April 22, 1968

Dear Hal,

I received your letter today and am answering it today which shows you that I now have the time to reply much more rapidly than I was able to in the past.

Because of the information contained in this letter I am making an extra copy available for Steve since he will be interested in a number of persons I'll be discussing.

What I've done is compiled a list of some 15 members (or ex-members) of the National States Rights Party which I've culled from various sources. One important source and I would urge you to contact him for further data on the NSRP and similar right-wing groupings is a writer by the name of H.K. Thompson, Jr. He is the one who managed to get a copy of the letter from the "Blue Shirts of Louisiana" of which I sent both you and Steve a copy. Thompson (if he is still living) is 46 years old and a Yale graduate. In the 40's and 50's he wrote for periodicals beginning with the "Yale News". He did some biographies of U.S. Presidents for reference works and a military history of the Pacific area during World War II. Thompson's sources are unmatched by any of the so-called "experts" in this area of right wing documentation. Most of what I'll be listing here was contained in an article he wrote for Lyle Stuart's monthly newspaper, "The Independent", published in N.Y.City. I suggest you ask Stuart for Thopmson's address.

First let me give you some background material on some of the items I sent both you and Steve. As for the "Blue Shirts of Louisiana" they served as the uniformed guard for the local meetings of the NSRP. They picketed and leafleted wherever the occasion arose. Their credo was "Believe, Obey and Fight!" and their official greeting was "America Arise!" They published a quarterly, untitled mimeographed bulletin(name unknown). The organization was modelled after the pre-war World War II Silver Shirts and the German-American Bund. Though small the membership was fanatic and a quotation from a letter in Thompson's pssession states:"When people accuse us of being Fascist, we say Yes."

I'll return to the NSRP in a short while but first I wanted to call your attention to some details concerning other individuals you've mentioned in previous letters. You're right about a "Vonsiatsky" being a Russian fascist. His full name was Count Anastase Andreivitch Vonsiatkoy-Vonsiatsky. He's mentioned in John Roy Carlson's book, "Under Cover"(see pp.177-180,183). He founded the "Fascist" which was an all-Russian magazine ~~xxxxxx~~ and headed the "Russian National Fascist Revolutionary Party" and his most intimate friend was Fritz Kuhn. I know of no association he had with Varney, however, but it would not surprise me to know that he did associate with him.

Vonsiatsky ran arms to Franco during the Spanish Civil War and established contact with the Mexican Gold Shirts who were also interested in the traffic of arms. His estate, in fact, became an arsenal lined with rifles and machine guns where he held regular drills

Kent Courtney achieved the unity of anti-Semites and segregationists in 1960 through his publication, "The Independent American", and was the driving force behind the States Rights Parties in the 1960

election. He was the founder of the Chicago Conference of Conservatives which sought to unify the Southern racists and Northern reactionaries.

Courtney's activities were publicly endorsed by Georgia Governor Griffin and privately by other Dixiecrat leaders. In his "spare time" he heads the Birch Society in his area as well as the "National Committtee for Economic Freedom". Thus he is able to coordinate his work with the "fascist revival" nationally.

The "front man" and co-worker of Courtney is Thomas Anderson of Nashville, Tennessee, the publisher of "Farm and Ranch" which once had a circulation of 1,300,000. As the "respectable" publisher also of the "Mississippi Farmer", "Alabama Farmer", "Georgia Farmer" and the "Arkansas Farmer" he was once touted as Vice-Presidetial timber of the Right.

Anderson wrote a weekly racist column for some 356 small-town papers and is a frequent contributor to the "American Mercury" and served as a National Council member of the Birch society.

A note in one of the sources I dug up refers to a Reverend Carl McIntyre who was connected with the "Christian Beacon". Is this the same one who was Bradley's employer?

Before getting into the 15 persons who belonged to the NSRP I thought I'd give you a brief rundown on what the NSRP was, according to a source I have. It runs like this: "The National States Rights Party is a national organization. it rages South and North, East and West, with 36 chapters in almost as many states: from Laguna Beach, California to Newark, New Jersey, from Portland, Oregon to Waco, Texas.

"According to a New York Post story on them: "Some of them (NSRP members) are alleged to have started the fight at the Trailways bus station in Birmingham on May 14, 1961 when the Freedom Riders came to town...

"Some have been labeled suspects in connection with bombings touched off to intimidate Negro leaders and discourage the end of racial discrimination...

"Some are charged with having rushed to Oxford, Mississippi, on the occasion of the riot that broke out on September 30, (1962) last year over the admission of Negro James H. Meredith."

Now an interesting item that I discovered in this Oxford situation was that one of the persons who was detained at this was the Reverend Oren Fenton Polito (Potito?) of St. Petersburg, Florida. Steve was very much interested in learning more about him. Potito is an NSRP member and was found with a trunkful of firearms in his car then. As you will recall General Walker led that affair! According to Bill Turner in his Ramparts article on the Minutemen (Jan., 1967) Potito was a minister in one of Dr. Wesley Swift's parish churches in Florida who readily acknowledged church-led "guerrilla warfare units". Dr. Wesley Swift's church in Los angeles was the "Church of Jesus Christ-Christian" which is similar to an NSRP-linked church known as "Church of Jesus Christ of Israel" which I'll mention later on.

Reverend Swift had a string of "parishes" in California and Florida and a radio voice reaching an estimated million listeners.

This church sponsored the "Christian Defense League".

More important about Swift is the fact that he was closely allied to Colonel William Gale whom you know about through information I gave both you and Steve. Gale was Edgar Eugene Bradley's close friend and was a World War II leader of the Phillippine guerrilla bands (wasn't Guy Gabledon one, also?). He headed the paramilitary "California Rangers" which was cited by the state attorney general as "an underground network for the conduct of guerrilla warfare." Turner states that Gale "apparently attempts to proselytize former servicemen; in 1964 the California American Legion revoked the charter of its Signal Hill Post when it was discovered many members had joined the Rangers. One Ranger, George J. King, son of a retired admiral, was convicted on firearms charges when he sold illegal weapons to state undercover agents."

Some of the "more advanced" NSRP memebers were reported to have been recruited by "ACIREMA", a unit of bombing specialists devoted exclusively to terrorism. Two members of "ACIREMA" were known to have been in Birmingham at the time of that notorious church bombing!

For Steve's information, the NSRP received support from a group in Los Angeles called "The White Horse Crusade" which was a political front for something called the "Church of Jesus Christ of Israel".(Remember my previous reference to Swift's similar-sounding church?). This group was somewhat Mormon and Anglo-Saxonist in its "theology" and was headed by J.H. Sherwood who called himself "Jasper #7". They were anti-Rockwell but were for the NSRP. A Marilyn Allen, a Salt Lake City free-lance anti-Negro and anti-Jewish writer, was a frequent contributor of "Crusade" reprints.

Now I'll list the 15 NSRP individuals alphabetically:

(1) Major Earl B. Allen - He is reputed to be a former NSRPer and became Rockwell's deputy commander at the American Nazi party's national office.

(2) Charles Cagle - He was an activist in the NSRP according to a source I have which describes the NSRP as "a quasi-miltary outfit of segregationists allied to the official Nazi party apparatus". Cagle was arrested barely a week after leaders of the NSRP were indicted on federal charges of obstructing the court-ordered integration of Birmingham schools. Cagle was known to be a KKK man who had previously been reported carrying a weapon at Klan rallies. He was arrested with Robert E. Lee Chambliss.

Chambliss is interesting in his own right for he was a long-time leader of the Alabama KKK who received a light jail sentence "for illegal possession of dynamite" shortly after the Birmingham church bombing that killed four little negro girls.(Recall that the Miami tape of the informer who predicted the plot on JFK's life said that the man involved in that plot was "in on the bombing of the Birmingham church"!)Chambliss' career dates back to 1949 when he led a reign of terror for flogging victims of the Klan's night raiders. Cagle confessed that the dynamite had originally been stored in Chambliss' home!

Recalling these bombing plans brings back to mind the year of 1958 when there were a series of synagogue bombings then. Five men arrested for bombing one in Atlanta, Georgia were all members of the NSRP - two being KKK leaders as well. Further investigation by the FBI

of a then "unknown commercial artist" named Rockwell in connection with these bombings turned up letters outlining plans for a "big blast" and anti-semitic literature of the NSRP and of the KKK. (Recall, again, that in the Miami tape a plan to blow up the Supreme Court Building in Washington was set and that, according to Bill Barry, who wrote the story, "the National Leader had worked on the construction of the building for three and a half years.")

(3) Rear Admiral John G. Crommelin - U.S. Navy (retired). He was a perennial NSRP candidate for national and state office who once polled 10% of the votes cast in Alalbama. He was a naval officer with a fine World War II combat record and claims "he told the American people the truth about subversión in Washington and as a result was forced to retire by the then President, Harry S. (for Solomon) Truman." Crommelin was at that time a captain in the Navy Department in Washington and was too vocal in his objections to proposed plans for the merger of the Armed Forces and from this retirement followed. He attained the rank of rear admiral through what is termed a "tomb stone" promotion automatically given to any officer holding a combat decoration. Crommelin's unsuccessful campaign for public office was for U.S. Senator of Alabama.

(4) Jerry (Jerald) Dutton - should be about 29 now. He was from Dectur, Georgia and was "Director of Information" for the "National White American Party" of Atlanta, Georgia modelled along lines of the NSRP. He organized the K-9 Corps to handle "uppity nigrahs" as NSRP Yoth Leader and quit the NSRP (too quiet for him) merging his own tiny organization, "Knights of the Confederacy" with the NWAP that publishes "The White American" which is virtually a carbon copy of the "Thunderbolt".

(5) Edward R. Fields - the real leader of the NSRP. He was once "supervisor" of the Realpolitical Institute in Chicago, an anti-semitic "reearch" group that has been called a "united Nazi front". Fields was a chiropractor and a veteran of some 10 years of "Nationalist" activities. The NSRP of Birmingham, Ala. was organized in some 35 states. At one time the NSRP was anti-Rockwell but, of course, there are ties of ideological kinship. The Pennsylvania branch of the NSRP was known as the "National Association To Preserve Free Speech". The Nebraska branch is the "Ultramerican Service Association". The "First National Directory of Rightist Groups" listed 37 branches of the NSRP with about 50% using post office boxes.

The NSRP's publication was "The Thunderbolt" which grew from a small mimeographed sheet into a 4 to 8 page monthly tabloid. In several issues Pres. Kennedy was viciously attacked. Sample stories attacked him as the "bushy-haired moron" and a "Kennedy Must Go" impeachment move was started in 1962

(6) Roy Frankhouser - once served as Minuteman co-ordinator for Pennsylvania. He switched allegiance to Rockwell's American Nazi Party as did Matt Koehl. Before switching Frankhouser was the NSRP National Organizer. Rockwell claimed he had become "a fighting storm trooper of the American Nazi Party." It was in Frankhouser's home that Dan Burros shot himself. (Recall that Burros was listed in Oswald's notebook. Ever wonder why? Or why Burros "shot" himself?).

(7) Millard D. Grubbs - once headed the Independent Citizens Councils of Kentucky, Inc. Grubbs also headed the "Citizens National Law Enforcement Committee" of Louisville, Ky., which was, to all intents and purposes an NSRP front with KKK backing. Grubbs was at one time NSRP candidate for governor. He published a monthly, slick-paper 4 page tabloid, "The American Eagle", which called for the impeachment of the President.

(8) Matt Koehl - At one time operated the "Vinland Bookstore" of Chicago which was Chicago headquarters for Rockwell's American Nazi Party. He was said to be "second in command" there. Koehl switched allegiance from the NSRP to Rockwell. When he was with the NSRP he was the Security Officer and an associate of Eustace Mullins. (see comment on Mullins in sketch on Nelsen#(10)).

(9) John Lundoff - Lundoff was NSRP district representative in New York who doubled as a National Renaissance party "trooper".

(10) Max Nelsen - Nelsen is a veteran Chicago Radical Rightist and was Illinois Chairman of the NSRP. He shared a letterhead eith the "Reverend" Eustace Mullins, a veteran crackpot propagandist of the Radical Right, who operated the "Realpolitical Institute", which ran out of a Chicago post office box. A subordinate group of this was the "Institute for Biopolitics" which used the same address Nelsen 's group was using.

(11) Reverend Oren Fenton Potito - He has been mentioned previously in this letter(see page 2). Besides the fact that Potito was an NSRP member there is the fact that he was present at the Oxford affair which Walker led. Potito was a minister under Swift and Swift associated with Gale. Isn't it interesting to find Potito's association with Walker and perhaps even Edgar Eugene Bradley? Is there some significance in this.? And didn't Walker attend a meeting with Varney some two or three days before JFK's assassassination. There may be no tie-in between all these characters but I thought it would be worth mentioning.

(12) George Lincoln Rockwell - who needs no introduction also once worked in the National States Rights Party. It would be interesting to find out why Rockwell's associate, Burros, was listed in Oswald's notebook. Could it be because of the alliance this organization had with the NSRP?

(13) J.B. Stoner - Stoner is an attorney and legal advisor of the NSRP. He was the "Christian Knights of the KKK"(Atlanta, Georgia) Archleader and Imperial Wizard. This party published a small 4-page "Klan Bulletin". The "Christian Knights of the KKK" tightly clung to the NSRP.

(14) James K. Warner - Warner was Pennsylvania organizer for the NSRP and joined the staff of the "Thunderbolt" as associate editor. He was the first "National Secretary" of Rockwell's ANP. He quit over a dispute with Rockwell. Warner went to Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and operated there the "American National Book Store" one of the larger Rightist outfits for printed matter. He also headed something called the "Christian Conservative Crusade" and for a time became the "Reverend James K. Warner", a self-anointed clergyman.

(15)Gordon Winrod - Winrod is the son of the late notorious anti-Semite Rev. Gerald Winrod. He formed the "Little Lutheran Church" after resigning from the regular Lutheran organization in a controversy over his having spoken at an NSRP meeting. He became the official Chaplain of the NSRP. He also published a monthly mimeographed sheet known as the "Winrod Letter".

Those are the 15 names of various individuals I have come across in my research on the National States Rights Party. I have not gone into any great depth in my study of this organization, however, since this would be a very time-consuming task and I would not want to do it unless there was a real need for it. You're in the best position to determine that. I hope that what I have presented is of some help, anyway.

Now, as far as my trip to New Orleans is concerned: I am not surprised to learn that no trial is expected until after the Presidential elections, just disappointed. I am now in the best position to go down there but there is no urgency on my part to be there right now. I can wait until such time as is best to be there.

You may have misunderstood when I said I was leaving the Bay Area in the near future. I only meant that I was intending to go to New Orleans and return to the Bay Area after my visit there. All my things are at Tom's place and another friend who has agreed to hold them for me until I return.

Perhaps what I should do is go back east and visit my parents in New Jersey for awhile which would give me a chnace to come out and see you in addition to visiting the National Archives. If I do make this decision it'll depend upon what you tell me and whether the trial will actually start. One last thing I would like to do is visit Steve Burton before going so that we can compare notes on what each has done.

Well, that is about all I have to say for now. I am to see Paul before I have my class on Tuesday night and we'll go over what you sent him. Incidentally, I'll also raise the point at the class concerning the money still due you for your first trip here. I'm sure some arrangement can be worked out on this.

In the meantime, regards to your wife and thanks for the information you've been sending me which I shall follow up. You'll be notified of any results as soon as possible. Ditto on anything you sent Paul.

Best,

Hal Verb

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